

**JUNE
NEWS**



LEXINGTON GAY SERVICES ORGANIZATION P.O. BOX 11471 LEXINGTON, KY 40575

INSIDE:

**PROUD
PLANS**

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CENTRAL KENTUCKY 86**

LEXINGTON'S GAY & LESBIAN NEWSLETTER

**NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING
POLICY**

If you would like to advertise in the GSO Newsletter, please send your camera-ready ad copy to GSO, PO Box 11471, Lexington, Ky. 40575. The Deadline for ad submission is the 15th of each month. Any ads received after the deadline will not be guaranteed to be published in the next issue.

Ads may be submitted camera-ready or rough. Rough copies are subject to additional charges as shown in rates section below. GSO will not be responsible for typesetting errors in ad after printing; advertiser is responsible for proofing the ads they submit for publication.

The editor reserves the right to censor advertisements which are deemed in poor taste and to edit due to space and/or grammatical errors. Erotica, fantasy, or sexually explicit materials, or ads with sexual innuendo, will not be accepted for publication.

RATES

Eighth Page	\$ 8.00
Quarter Page	\$15.00
Half Page	\$25.00
Full Page	\$40.00
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Gay and Lesbian AA.....	266-8887
Gay and Lesbian Democrats of Kentucky....	266-3934
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Cincinnati Gay Switchboard.....	(513) 221-7800
National Gay Task Force Crisis Line(800)	221-7044
NGTF AIDS Crisis Line.....	(800) 221-7044

GSO MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

- Please put me/us on the GSO mailing list including a free subscription to the monthly GSO newsletter (delivered in an "unmarked" envelope).
- Enclosed is \$10.00 (or \$5.00 for students) for each membership in GSO.
- Please let me/us know how I/we can be more involved in GSO or other gay/lesbian organizations by calling _____
- or writing: Phone # _____

Name(s)

Street Address

Apt #

City

State

Zip

Mail to GSO, P.O. Box 11471, Lex., KY 40575

The GSO newsletter is published monthly by the Lexington Gay Services Organization Incorporated, P.O. Box 11471, Lexington, Kentucky 40575. GSO is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide educational, recreational, social and referral services directly involving or relating to gay/lesbian people.

Views or opinions expressed in stories or letters are those of the writers and do not necessarily represent those of the GSO board or the newsletter staff. Publication of the name or photograph of any person, organization or other entity in articles or advertising in the newsletter is in no way indicative of the sexual orientation of such person, organization or entity.

Submissions for the newsletter are welcome. All submissions become the property of the Lexington Gay Services Organization, Inc. All Submissions must indicate the full name and address of the author, although no byline will be published without permission of the author. Non-original material must indicate that that person has given his/her permission for the use of his/her name in the publication. Anonymous submissions cannot be accepted. The editorial staff has the right to alter submissions (including advertisements) to meet publishing requirements.

Cover Logo:

- Design by John G.
- Artwork by Phil W.

GAY PRIDE 86 CENTRAL KENTUCKY

GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE WEEK 1986: OUR COMMUNITY'S
CULTURAL CELEBRATION.

This year's Pride Week is sponsored by the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Association, comprised of representatives of each of the Lesbian/Gay organizations in Lexington. The donations collected from last year's Pride Week provided the majority of this year's funds.

All of us would like to invite you to Pride Week 1986, June 8 - 14, and hope that you have more fun this year than you did last year. We are expecting an even larger crowd, so come join the fun and "Celebrate" with us!!

Details are provided on the Calendar. See you there!!

JUNE FORUM - ELECTIONS AND PRIDE PROGRAM

Our June Forum will focus on the election of board members. This will be followed by a closer look at Lesbian/Gay Pride Week '86: Our Community's Cultural Celebration. A Presentation will be made on why we do have gay pride.

The board report, community input and elections are at 8:00pm. The program will start at 8:30pm. Refreshments are provided.

MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS

The GSO Gay Parenting Support Group will have a Sunday Brunch on June 22nd at 10:30 AM. Everyone is welcome, it will be held at Bruce's house on Boiling Springs Drive. Please call 268-3935 to let us know you plan to attend and to get directions. If you get the answering machine, please leave a message and a phone number where you can be reached if you need directions. We will look forward to seeing you on the 22nd.

KENTUCKY THEATRE SUPPORTS GAY AND LESBIAN PRIDE MONTH

In cooperation with the Lexington Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Association, the Kentucky Theatre has obtained a variety of Lesbian and Gay films for Pride Month 1986 (June). We would like to thank the Kentucky Theatre and especially Freddy for their support and ask each of you to show your support for the "Kentucky".

The Friday of Pride Week 1986, will be celebrated at the "Kentucky". Help us enjoy a night together, as a community, while we are

entertained by the Lexington Premiere of LA CAGE AUX FOLLES III (The Wedding), 9:30pm. See you there!!

Gay/Lesbian films at the Kentucky during June:

- My Beautiful Laundrette May 30 - June 5
- Kiss of the Spider Woman June 7 - 12
- La Cage Aux Folles III June 13 - 19
- Desert Hearts June 27 - July 3

Thanks again for your support!

AUNT MARY

ASK AUNT MARY

Dear Aunt Mary: I hate Lexington, there are no interesting men here. Any suggestions? - Dorothy

Dear Dorothy: Yes. Try Kansas - Aunt Mary

If you would like to write to Aunt Mary, send your letter to: Aunt Mary, Z6SO, Post Office Box 11471, Lexington, Kentucky 40575. If you would like a personal reply include a stamped, self addressed envelope. All names are strictly confidential.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Project Lifeline
9601 Wilshire Boulevard
Mezzanine Level,
Los Angeles, California 90210

Dear GSO:

One of my dearest friends died last year. I am writing to you today to ask you for a contribution to stop the killer disease that took him away from us.

Rock Hudson, my long time friend, did not die of cancer or heart disease - deadly enough in themselves but, with early detection, treatable. He died of a disease that, in essence, leaves no survivors. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome has become a frightening fact of life and death for thousands of Americans.

As I write this letter, 10,000 Americans have died. Many thousands more are sick - many will die before you read this. And more than one million Americans are carriers and live in constant fear for their lives.

The human toll in suffering and wasted lives is almost beyond imagining. AIDS is a major threat because right now we have no cure and no way to prevent its onslaught.

I am frightened and I know you are too. In

fact, we are all vulnerable.

Saddest of all are the children - some of them less than a year old. They have no future.

AIDS has no mercy.

I pray you will never have to stand by helplessly as someone you love dies slowly and painfully. I know personally what a terrible experience it is.

I vow to do everything I can to find a cure for this terrifying disease. But I need your help to fulfill this pledge.

I head a special group of committed and dedicated people at the American Foundation for AIDS Research (AmFAR). We have begun a campaign called Project Lifeline to support research projects aimed at finding the causes and cure of this fatal disease.

Research is our only hope of ending the suffering. But the scientists cannot do their job unless we do ours. It is our responsibility to raise the desperately needed funds.

The money Project Lifeline raises will be used by AmFAR's Scientific Advisory Committee to award grants to the most promising research projects all over the country.

It is time for every one of us to stand up and be counted in the battle against AIDS. The shocking reality is that we are all in danger - men, women, and children. Let us unite to defeat a common enemy.

People with AIDS, on the brink of destruction, cry out for help.

Rock hoped that his death would bring the critical need for AIDS research to the attention of the world. If his tragedy brings us together to support a massive effort against this merciless killer, he will not have died in vain.

I urge you to join me today - tomorrow may be too late - and send a tax-deductible contribution to Project Lifeline. You will be supporting the nationwide effort of the American Foundation for AIDS Research to put an end to the tragic loss of life.

After all, that's what friends are for!

My best wishes,
Elizabeth Taylor
National Chairman

Dear Jim:

Please know how much I - for one in this community - appreciate your effort. You've achieved a modern-day "miracle" by organizing and leading GSO! In Lexington I'm surprised GSO can draw 20-30 people who really care about the community enough to be known by others. I'm proud to be a member and proud of your leadership...give yourself credit - you deserve it for what you've achieved...GSO has become a respected, integral, functioning force in our community. - J.M. - Lexington

GET INVOLVED!!

GSO COMMUNICATIONS INVENTORY

Please help Lexington Gay Services Organization serve you better by answering the following questions:

1-Which source do you most often use to find out about events in the gay community?

- a. GSO Newsletter, b. word of mouth,
c. Posters, d. Gayline,
Other _____

2-How often do you attend a GSO sponsored event?

- a. 3 or fewer this year, b. between 4 and 10 times a year, c. once a month,
d. twice a month, e. weekly,
f. never attend

3-Have you ever called the GSO Gayline?

- Yes, No

4-How many times?

- a. once, b. 2-5 times, c. 5-10 times, d. more than 10 times

5-How often do you read the GSO Newsletter?

- a. once a year, b. 2-6 times a year,
c. monthly, d. never

6-From what source do you receive the GSO Newsletter?

- a. by mail, b. bar or other business,
c. friend, d. don't receive it

7-What about the GSO Newsletter do you find most appealing?

- a. Aunt Mary, b. local news,
c. national news, d. AIDS update,
e. events calendar, Other _____

Please place an X in each blank that applies to your feelings about the GSO Newsletter:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| a. <input type="checkbox"/> has too many ads | b. <input type="checkbox"/> not enough ads |
| c. <input type="checkbox"/> has too many pages | d. <input type="checkbox"/> not enough pages |
| e. <input type="checkbox"/> too much AIDS news | f. <input type="checkbox"/> not enough AIDS news |
| g. <input type="checkbox"/> too much nat'l newsh. | h. <input type="checkbox"/> not enough nat'l news |
| i. <input type="checkbox"/> has improved | j. <input type="checkbox"/> has not improved |
| k. <input type="checkbox"/> too many photos | l. <input type="checkbox"/> not enough photos |
| m. <input type="checkbox"/> too much humor | n. <input type="checkbox"/> not enough humor |
| o. <input type="checkbox"/> should charge a small subscription fee | p. <input type="checkbox"/> should not charge a small subscription fee |

Please clip and return this survey to:

GSO SURVEY
Post Office Box 11475
Lexington, Kentucky 40575

Thank you for taking time to give us your input. Any additional comments would be welcome on a separate sheet. Your response will help direct the future of Lexington Gay Services Organization communications.

Gibb's rhetoric is, without question, offensive; he doesn't speak in terms of AIDS patients, instead he says "one of the current cases of AIDS...could enroll at the university." Does he also talk about a case of cancer enrolling at the university.

A report cited by Gibbs in his column was published by the American College Health Association. The report states: "The American College Health Association recommends that the organization and completion of effective educational campaigns about AIDS be an activity of highest priority for all institutions of higher learning."

Last year, as part of Gibbs' plan to educate EKU students, he presented a poorly publicized forum with guest speakers from Frankfort, Kentucky. The publicity for the forum did not include the usual plastering of campus with posters but did include an article in "The Eastern Progress." The center of attention in the article was a drawing of a pint of blood with skull and cross bones and "use at your own risk" written on it. The artwork is incorrect in that the blood supply of the U.S. had been declared safe months prior to the run of the article.

While Gibbs is not alone in his naive attitude he is in a position to affect the opinions and health of many thousands of people.

ANDROGYNOUS TRAITS CALLED AID TO MENTAL HEALTH from the Orlando Sentinel

First, and far ahead of the pack, there was David Bowie. Then came other performers who seemed to be playing mix-and-match with their sexuality - Michael Jackson, Boy George, Grace Jones, Prince and Annie Lennox among them. Would-be sociologists started lumping them together and calling them "gender benders."

It's an obnoxious turn of a phrase that - fortunately - hasn't caught on outside of Women's Wear Daily and People magazine. There's no need for it, actually, because we have a respectable word that dates back to ancient Greece: androgynous.

In its most common modern usage, androgyny refers to men who exhibit feminine qualities, or women who appear to mime masculinity. Such people seem to be poised on a kind of sexual teeter-totter. Perhaps they are making a statement; perhaps they are just confused. In the case of a performing artist, it all seems part of the act, a kind of onstage put-on. Most people think of androgyny in this sense as being little more than a trend, along the order of wine coolers and krugerrands. But androgyny has a specific meaning to psychologists - a meaning that has nothing to do with show business or trendiness, with Grace Jones' crew cut or Boy George's mascara. Psychologists, in fact, use the word to describe ordinary people - people who are not weird,

outlandish or sexually ambiguous, but extremely well adjusted.

Right: well adjusted.

Among psychologists, the emphasis on androgyny began in the mid-'70s, when pioneering work on sex roles and their influence on personality was being done by Sandra Bem, a researcher at Stanford University. Bem's research, and the results of several well-documented studies since then, has indicated that people who can draw on both the male and the female aspects of their personalities tend to solve problems more quickly, get along better with other people, and have higher self-images than people who stick to the traditional, role-model traits of their respective sex.

But psychologists say that getting that idea across to the general public has been difficult - particularly with men.

The difference is that for a woman, cultivating an androgynous personality can be immediately rewarding, said Ann Diebel, a psychologist in Orlando, Florida. A woman who becomes more assertive, for example - taking on what is considered a masculine quality - might get a promotion out of it.

But a man who becomes more sensitive to others - something that is considered a feminine trait - might be accused of becoming soft-hearted. Often, there is simply no instant payoff for men who try to acquire the psychological skills of the other sex.

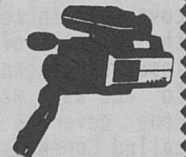
But shifting toward qualities most often associated with women can be precisely what a man needs to do to recover from a disastrous divorce, for example. He has to admit that it is painful. He has to concede that he was partly to blame. And he has to seek the help of other people. All three actions run against the grain of traditional male values - toughness, stubbornness, independence. All three actions are associated with feminine qualities.



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NATIONAL NEWS

A SUCCESS STORY: OBTAINING 'DOMESTIC-PARTNER BENEFITS' from The Wall Street Journal

Gay professionals are beginning to achieve success in at least one area of the office: obtaining so-called domestic-partner benefits.

For many gays, the battle over these benefits, which cover everything from funeral leave to health and auto insurance, involves more than money. At issue is the recognition of the validity of gay and lesbian relationships. "We're fighting these issues for our own self-respect," says Roberta Achtenberg, director of the Lesbian Rights Project in San Francisco, which recently published a booklet advising gays on how to use collective bargaining to obtain partner coverage.

Backed by a network of gay legal support groups, such as the 1,000-member Californian Lawyers for Individual Freedom, gays have recently obtained several important rulings for their partners. Ms. Achtenberg's group, for example, won unemployment benefits for a gay man who left his job to provide round-the-clock care during the last two months of his lover's fatal battle with AIDS. The man's employer originally denied him the benefits, claiming he hadn't left his job for "good cause."

A 'MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP'

But the state Unemployment Insurance Appeals Board disagreed. It noted that "even though a blood or marital relationship did not exist," often "non-blood, non-legal relationships...are as meaningful, if not more meaningful, than the relationships created by blood or bonds of marriage."

The three-million-member Automobile Club of Southern California, after pressure from the National Gay Rights Advocates law firm, has also extended auto-insurance discounts to domestic partners, provided they own cars jointly and keep them at the same residence. And Workers Trust Insurance Company of Eugene, Oregon, offers domestic-partner coverage to about 650 employers, including the Northwest Forestry Workers Association in Eugene and the Gay Community News in Boston. The company, which is beginning a study of the actuarial risks of domestic partners, says it has "generally had good experience" with its plan.

Many gays, however, are finding insurance coverage increasingly difficult to secure since the outbreak of AIDS. In response, a group of gay insurance agents in California has joined forces to act as a watchdog on insurance companies that deny coverage or benefits to gays. The group, called Concerned Insurance Professionals for Human Rights, keeps sympathetic lawmakers informed about companies that deny coverage to gays and tries to

continued next page.

THE DOUBLE CLOSET from Life

part one of three

When Michael Dorman comes in to wake his eight-year-old son, Eryn is sound asleep, his chest wrapped tightly in the flowered comforter Michael tucked around him last night, and his pajama'ed legs, decorated in macho-little-boy style with colored fighter planes, sticking out over the side of the bed. "Eryn," Michael says, bending over the child. "It's time to get up, Eryn." Blurred with sleep, Eryn fumbles with the thick flannel shirt his father has laid out for him. "Will you be warm enough?" Michael, a 38-year-old letter carrier in Toronto, is the sort of father who is always rebuttoning jackets, re-checking seat belts, trying to sneak vegetables into his son's diet. Against all reasonable expectation of success, he drops a toothbrush into Eryn's Garfield-the-Cat lunch box. "Han Solo doesn't brush his teeth," grumbles Eryn, who has seen Star Wars four times. "Han Solo," says his father, "probably has cavities."

An hour later, in the next bedroom, Robert Knight, 36, Michael's lover of three years, begins to dress his 10-year-old daughter, Brittan, in a red turtleneck, blue denim jumper and red tights. It is hard to find clothes that fit Brittan's narrow hips and protruding belly, and Robert often takes her to four or five department stores before they put together an outfit they both like. Then he alters it on his Singer sewing machine - clumsily, he'd be quick to add, like any ham-handed father.

Brittan has Down's syndrome, a form of congenital retardation. When Robert left his wife for Michael, Rose Knight said she could not care for all three of their children on her own and would have to institutionalize Brittan. Robert replied that Brittan would never live in an institution; he would take her himself. Some of Robert's friends look on Brittan as a sort of booby prize, an embarrassing complication in a life already complicated enough. Robert thinks otherwise. He stays home from work - as an applications coordinator at the Workers' Compensation Board in Toronto - when she is sick, has long and frequent conferences with the teachers at her school for the retarded, shops for the special brand of shampoo that makes her hair shine. Of all his children, Brittan is the only one who will never understand that her father is gay, and she loves him with the unquestioning trust he fears society will someday try to steal from the others. When Robert goes into the bathroom to brush his hair, Brittan follows him in and smooths his head with her hand. "I will comb you, Daddy," she says.

continued next page.

THIS AND THAT

MISS MANNERS

Dear Miss Manners: My husband-to-be will be having a woman as his best man. We've been referring to her as the "best person."

She is and has been for many years his closest friend, and there is no doubt in his mind that she is the only person fit for the honor. I support him completely in this decision. That is not the issue.

The issue is: What should she wear?

It's going to be a morning wedding, and the groom and my father will wear morning suits. The matron of honor will be wearing a lavender street-length dress. There will also be a flower girl and a ring bearer.

The suggestions I've had so far are a dress matching the matron of honor's, but without a bouquet, or a feminine suit (skirt and jacket). A man's suit is out of the question - talk about hokey. My main concern is that she not stick out like a sore thumb.

Gentle Reader: If your wish is to retain the spirit of the role of wedding attendant by according each position to the person most suited to it, regardless of sex, Miss Manners is thoroughly with you. She has had quite enough of bridal couples who are more interested in the theatrical effect than in who is with them at the altar.

But if you keep thinking of it as a man's role that is to be played by a woman - as the mere horrible mention of her wearing a man's suit suggests - she wants nothing to do with you. Had your best friend been a man, she hopes there would have been no talk of putting him in a flowered dress and a floppy garden hat.

Your husband's attendant should be dressed as a female member of the bridal party, equivalent to your matron of honor. They needn't match exactly but should be distinguished slightly from the bridesmaids. If the female attendants carry bouquets, there is no reason why the best person shouldn't.

ANN LANDERS

Dear Ann: I am an 18-year-old guy with a very big problem. Recently my mother found some homosexual magazines under my mattress and told my father. When they faced me with the evidence and asked if I was gay, I didn't see any point in trying to lie.

This has really destroyed my folks. They are begging me to change. I understand their disappointment. I am their only son, and they want grandchildren to carry on the family name. We have had plenty of talks, and I have heard everything from "Would you be willing to go to a hypnotist?" to "We'll buy you a new car."

All my friends at work know I'm gay and accept me the way I am. Actually, I don't want to change. I've known since I was about 8 years old that I was different.

But I can't stand to see my parents so torn up. When my dad said, "I'd rather have you killed in an accident or die of cancer," I realized how this had affected him.

Shall I try to deny my true feelings and go to a hypnotist? Could he change me? Was I born this way, or what?

Some people say a psychiatrist can make gays straight. Is it true? Should I move out and lead my own life? I can't take much more of this.

--Feeling Low in Memphis, Tenn.

Dear Memphis: Some people say hypnotism and psychiatry can change a homosexual into a heterosexual. I am not at all sure this is true.

You ask what causes homosexuality. Nobody knows for certain. Some of my consultants insist sexuality is fixed at birth. Others say it is environmental. I believe some people are born homosexuals and others become gay for a variety of reasons.

Moving out and leading your own life is not the answer. Your parents need to understand a great deal more than they do so they can accept you the way you are. Unless they are willing to try, you will be lost to them forever.

I hope they will write to Federation of Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays Inc. This organization is for parents who were bewildered and heartsick to learn that their children were homosexual. By understanding this deviation from the norm and meeting with other parents who have traveled the same road, they were able to accept their children and make peace with themselves. The address is P.O. Box 24565, Los Angeles, California 90024. Enclose a long, self addressed, stamped (39 cents postage) envelope.

WHY BOTHER?

from Gaybeat, by Ed Volkhov

Those of us who are out are irked by those of us who are not. Fund raising to help the ill or defend the harassed or educate the straights and ourselves would be so much easier if so many of those who could contribute were not completely hidden and unreachable. Politicians - whose legislative power can be so critical for gay and lesbian welfare - are impressed with NUMBERS, and open gays and lesbians are so few.

There are many gays successfully closeted. They have somehow or the other found lovers or congenial acquaintances and have kept this aspect of their lives hidden from family and employer. Their split-life security is threatened by openly gay activities. Any publicity on gay issues can rip apart the veils of pretense. The neighbors and family and acquaintances who've really been accomplices, refusing to recognize what has been going on, can be jolted into increased awareness by open gay protest and publicity. They will then no longer avert their gaze, or invent excuses or

AIDS UPDATE

nourish rationalizations which maintain your secrecy and their belief that all the world is and ought to be and must be straight. The closet door will be gone. Friend and fagbasher alike can walk right in upon Your Precious Secret. This is a fear-inducing prospect, have not doubt!

Aside from the moral appeal to civic consciousness and the psychological appeal of the inner peace and emotional health that comes from an integrated life instead of a two-faced one, why come out? Into what does one come out, oh middle-aged man?

If you like peace and quiet, welcome to the gay discos where the music is always so loud that conversation is almost impossible. Do you like fresh air, or suffer from respiratory ailments, or have conquered the smoking habit but are still easily tempted? Welcome to the poorly-ventilated, smoke-filled bars! If you like pleasant, attractive surroundings, comfortably furnished, then when you step out as a gay man, where, outside your own carefully furnished domicile, can any such club or bar or other gathering place be found? Not in this town!

Political and religious minorities, particularly on the left, are acutely aware of how few their numbers are. Newcomers are welcomed. They can be so valuable if only they will stay and join your little organization. As for newcomers to the gay scene, who gives a shit? If they happen to embody someone's momentary sex fantasy, fine! Otherwise they are invisible, unrecognized, unknown, unspoken-to, unwanted. If they are shy, which for someone no longer young, is quite likely, because years of dealing with straights may have made shyness a practical protective habit, they might as well remain in their closet or their well-of-loneliness. Why bother coming out?

Gay men have a long, difficult struggle if they are to free themselves of straight ideas of manliness - that real men don't cry, real men don't turn to others for help, real men are utterly self-reliant, real men play games that put one another down one way or another, they are "tops," aggressive and assertive, never mutually respecting one another's needs and desires. And real men are a myth, too, but the ideal lives on in gays as well as straights. Lots of us don't even realize the forms our victimization has taken, and how we carry within ourselves the poisons and perversions of Mainstream attitudes.

The gay "community" has a long way to go if it is to become a real, honest, open, "user-friendly," joyful, fraternal community. And you, dear reader, if you are a gay man, do you welcome the gay stranger, regardless of age or race or physical appearance or social status, as a brother, a comrade, one more fellow-victim come in out of the cold, and not just a possible trick for the night? No? 'Tain't easy, is it?! But if we all could do it, we'd all be the stronger and safer for it. And if you think I'm not addressing this to myself as well as to you, think again!

The Public Health Service is in the process of choosing 10 hospitals to begin testing several experimental drugs this summer. All have shown promise in the treatment of AIDS. As many as 2000 AIDS patients may eventually be given the experimental drugs which include Ribavirin, Azidothymidine and Interleukin-2.

Researchers at Albert Einstein College of Medicine say they have found Gamma Globuline to be effective in curbing AIDS related infections, but stress that it does not cure AIDS.

Meanwhile, French doctors describe cyclosporine as "a very promising treatment." They do not think the drug will restore the immune system of AIDS victims but think it might do so in persons with pre-AIDS. According to the doctors, any evaluation at this time is at a very preliminary stage.

AIDS has become the leading cause of death in women age 25 to 29 and of men age 30 to 44 in New York City.

And, the government has proposed a ban on persons with AIDS who seek immigration to this country. The CDC published the proposed regulation in the Federal Register, saying AIDS should be added to the list of seven dangerous contagious diseases that are grounds for refusing entry to the United States.

EKU STUDENT HEALTH NOT TAKING AIDS SERIOUSLY by EKU student T. West

Dr. Fred Gibbs, Director of the Eastern Kentucky University Student Health Services doesn't seem to have a grasp on the seriousness of the AIDS epidemic.

In an article that appeared in the Eastern Kentucky University student newspaper 'The Eastern Progress' Gibbs goes to the point of making light of sexual contact between roommates: "...rule one is to avoid intimate sexual contact with that roommate. Now I know that's not very likely, but that certainly would be a definite no-no if one wanted to avoid the disease AIDS."

Gibbs makes reference to some "data" that has given him a crystal ball insight that enables him to predict the time of EKU's first case of AIDS. He contends that it will be in 1989, unless a previously diagnosed AIDS patient enrolls before then.

A SUCCESS STORY... continued

place gays with companies that provide coverage. Insurance companies that have been targeted by the group "are astonished this exists," says Tony Melia, the West Hollywood agent who organized the effort.

CHANGES AMONG BANKERS

By banding together, gays say they have also come a long way in achieving acceptance and equitable treatment from lenders. In the early 1970s, for example, gay businessmen living in an old Irish neighborhood in San Francisco's hilly Castro District sought to enlist the local Hebernia Bank as a member of the gay merchants association. When the bank refused, the association circulated a letter urging the bank to join, at the bottom of which members affixed their Hebernia deposit stamps. The bank quickly signed up.

"We wanted to show them that, 'You may not want to accept us, but we are here. We are your customers. And we have economic clout,'" says 55-year-old John Schmidt, recalling that at the time he and his lover couldn't obtain a home loan because banks in the neighborhood refused to consider their incomes jointly.

Today, the city's gay chamber of commerce counts among its members the Bank of America, Wells Fargo, First Interstate, Gibraltar and Continental Savings & Loan. And Mr. Schmidt is chairman of his own five-year-old thrift, Atlas Savings & Loan, with three branches and \$90 million in savings. At Atlas and the other banks, gay partners' income are now judged collectively.

Says Jean O'Leary, executive director of the National Gay Rights Advocates, "Our greatest oppression has always been our invisibility."

THE DOUBLE CLOSET continued

Michael and Robert chose their apartment building, which is in Burlington, Ontario, 30 miles west of Toronto, overlooking Lake Ontario, because it has a pool for the children in the basement and paved paths for bicycles out back. Soon they will move to a condominium closer to Toronto, "with swings and a teeter-totter," says Robert, "and room for a dog." The fathers, who are both neat by nature, spend much of their time trying to stem the tide of racing cars, catcher's mitts, hockey sticks, plastic submarines, Indian headdresses, Rubik's Cubes, coloring books and stuffed rabbits that spills from the children's bedrooms to the living room. Eryn spends half each month with his father and half with his mother, Lynn. Brittan lives here full time. Robert's younger children, Jason, nine and Rosslyn, six live mostly with Rose Knight four miles away. Every other weekend they arrive from their mother's house for 48 riotous hours of Pac-

Man tournaments and post-curfew pillow fights. "I miss having all three of them around all the time," says Robert, "I miss having them climb on my lap and reading to them before bed. Mainly I just miss the sound of them laughing and running in and out. If Rose had tried to prevent me from seeing my children, I would have probably ended up stealing them."

Posted on the refrigerator door and over their father's bed - the same wooden four-poster Michael once shared with Lynn - are glossy photographs of muscular men: erotic icons for both lovers to admire. The pictures are there for the same reason that Michael and Robert kiss each other hello and good-bye in front of their children (although passion is a private matter, just as it was when they were living with their wives). "If I'm not going to hide who I am from other people, I'm certainly not going to hide it from my kids," says Michael. "Children should be raised in a home where people love each other. Gays who are afraid of that are ashamed to be gay, and they will raise children who are ashamed of their fathers."

When Eryn was five years old, he told his father that "gay" meant "when you wear buttons," because Michael often wears a Gay Pride button or a pink triangle, the symbol, analogous to the Jews' yellow star, worn by the tens of thousands of largely forgotten homosexuals who died in Nazi concentration camps. Now, says Eryn, "I know that gay is when a man loves another man or a woman loves a woman, and some people hate them and call them fags." When Jason was six, Robert said to him, "You know your friend Christopher? Well, a lot of people wouldn't like Christopher because his skin is black. Some people would like to see Christopher dead. Others would just like to stay away from Christopher. Some people feel the same way about Michael and me because we are in love with each other, and usually a man will have those strong feelings for a woman. Both kinds of love are good." Some months later, watching his father dress for a party, Jason asked whom he was going to dance with. "Michael," said Robert. "But people will laugh at you," said Jason protectively. "No, they won't," said Robert, "they're gay too."

Like most gay activists, Michael and Robert are convinced that sexual orientation is established very early, most likely before the age of six. Both believe that their children are probably straight. They note wryly that their daughters like dolls and teddy bears, and their sons like violent games, bloody movies and war toys. Robert would prefer his children to be heterosexual, so their lives will be easier than his own has been. Michael says that he does not care one way or the other. He hopes that in either case, exposure to homosexuality will help his son grow up free of prejudice. If Eryn is gay, he should, unlike his father, have healthy gay role models to preserve him from self-hatred

and isolation. If he is straight, he should have learned tolerance of sexual variation.

The assumption of some heterosexuals that gay fathers might try to "convert" their children turns Michael, a grave and temperate man, livid. "Do straights really think that heterosexuality is so weak and fragile that people are waiting in line to rush to our fold?" he says. "Two straight parents and a lifetime of heterosexual bombardment - books, TV, movies, everywhere I looked it was boys kissing girls - didn't make me straight. How could I make anyone gay? And how could anyone think that after having my own freedom of choice taken from me for so long I would ever try to do the same thing to my son?"

Of the many derogatory gay slang words for heterosexuals, one of the commonest is "breeder." The implications is clear: Only straights have children. Once, when Michael was walking in a gay rights parade under a banner that said "Gay Fathers," an onlooker stopped him and said, "What do you mean? That's impossible!" Indeed, homosexuality and fatherhood - far more than lesbianism and motherhood, and unusual but less surprising conjunction - seem a contradiction in terms to people at both ends of the sexual spectrum. As William D. Goddard, a New York attorney and gay father of three sons, has put it, "If I really am completely open about myself, I'll end up in a double bind. The straights won't like me and the gays won't like me either."

It is true that the male gay world of bars, bathhouses, dances and dinner parties makes little provision for children. All over the world, socializing starts close to midnight and lasts until dawn or beyond; some after-hours clubs have windows painted black to prolong the night. People who have baby-sitters waiting at home cannot lead such hours. And they may find that in this ultimate singles scene, talk of diapers and PTA meetings does not go over well. Maurice Flood of Vancouver, a gay father of two daughters, has said, "Many gays, particularly in the gay movement, regard parenthood as a retrograde step. The gay father who is out is seen as someone who has not quite rejected or escaped the family." (By "out," Flood means publicly out of the closet.) Children are, after all, a visible manifestation of heterosexual intercourse. In her book *Married and Gay*, Brenda Maddox quotes a father who was rejected by a potential sex partner: "He saw the toys and that was that. Even the thought that I had touched a woman defiled me in his eyes." Those gays who are tolerant of children may still find it hard to accept how completely the lives of parents are dominated by their offspring. An acquaintance of Robert and Michael's visiting their apartment for the first time, said, "I could never do this. I tend to lose interest in all my endeavors after a while, but you can't just throw a child in the toy box when you're through. Well, they say a faggot's child is his dog. If I want to take care of something, I'll get a dog."

The gay father is no less an oddity from the heterosexual perspective. If he is a homosexual, why on earth did he marry? It may come as a surprise that 20 percent of all gay men have been married at least once (according to three different studies) and that most did so for the same reasons as straights - because they wanted children, because they valued domesticity, because their parents expected it, because they feared a lonely old age, because they loved their wives. Many men do not discover they are fundamentally homosexual until well into their marriages; others hope that their wives will "cure" them, that the wedding ring (as gay father Henry W. Weiss has put it) will be the cross that keeps away the vampire. Of those that marry, approximately half have children. Based on Kinsey's findings that 13 percent of American men are predominantly homosexual (although most are closeted), there are probably as many as a million gay fathers in the U.S. and Canada.

The two most tenaciously held myths about gay fathers are that their children will become homosexual and that they or their friends will molest their sons. ("Of course, we're also unfit to raise daughters," says Michael dryly, "because all gays hate females.") The "germ theory" of homosexuality - that it is catching, like measles - has little basis in fact. Indeed, several studies have shown that gay parents have about the same proportion of gay children as straight parents do, making the second-generation homosexual a rare phenomenon. Once a child reaches school age, sexual orientation seems to be remarkably resistant to parental influence. One study by psychiatrist Richard Green, of the State University of New York at Stony Brook, showed that even the sons and daughters of transsexuals - many of whom had actually watched their parents metamorphose through hormone treatment and surgery into the opposite sex - showed no signs of confused gender identity in their choice of toys, friends or career aspirations. By comparison, the children of gay fathers have it easy. And if one believes Freud's theory - Michael and Robert do not - that male homosexuals tend to have dominant mothers and weak or absent fathers, there is little chance that the sons of two such ardent paternal nurturers would turn out to be gay.

Then there is the specter of child molestation. When William Goddard hears it mentioned, he says he experiences "the kind of rage you feel when you hear something that is so fundamentally and dangerously flawed that you really want to fight it, both intellectually and physically, if necessary." In fact, according to a study by the American Humane Association, a national anticruelty agency, 11 out of 12 pedophile arrests are heterosexual - men molesting little girls. Heterosexual men also tend to victimize younger children and are more likely to use violence. In the course of a 1975 study of sex crimes, the Institute for Sex

continued on back page.

Research ended up excluding "homosexual aggressors" from its list of sex offenses against children because they were so rare, while retaining the amply documented category of "heterosexual aggressors."

Finally, gay fathers must contend with what Michael and Robert call "generalized homophobia." Despite the fact that the American Psychiatric Association removed homosexuality from its list of mental disorders in 1973, the majority of Americans (according to a 1982 Gallup poll) still view it as an unacceptable lifestyle - and many presumably believe, as Anita Bryant said in 1977, that "God puts homosexuals in the same category as murderers." Although today the Norman Rockwell paradigm of a husband supporting a wife and children represents less than 15 percent of all American families, the nation may not yet be ready to expand its notion of "family" quite so drastically as to include homosexuals. The crucial issue still seems to be sex itself. Many people feel a reflexive stomach-turning at what the antisodomy laws of several states still describe in such language as "the abominable and detestable crime against nature with mankind or beast." In one survey of 3,000 Americans, 86 percent objected to homosexual relations without love and 70 percent object to homosexual relations with love.

(continued next month)

UPCOMING OUT OF STATE EVENTS

The Southeastern Gay/Lesbian Conference will be held in New Orleans, June 5th through June 8th. For information write Post Office Box 51877, New Orleans, LA 70151-1877 or call (504) 523-3922 or (504) 947-7229.

A Sexuality Conference for Women, featuring author JoAnn Loulan will be held at the Howard Johnson Hotel at 10th Street and I 75/85 in Atlanta the weekend of June 13th. For information write Granny Mae Production, 1410 Monroe Drive #2, Atlanta, Georgia 30324 or call (404) 875-5686.

Gay Games II will be held in San Francisco August 9-17th. at Kezar Stadium. For rules, regulations, entry forms, and complete information contact Gay Games Office, 526 Castro Street, San Francisco, California 94114 or call (415) 861-8282.

The San Francisco International Girth and Mirth Club is hosting a national convention on Labor Day Weekend in San Francisco. For details write San Francisco International Girth and Mirth Club, 495 Ellis Street #164, San Francisco, California 94102 or call (415) 680-7612.

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- † Rod Saalfeld, Trendsetters
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- The Bungalow
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- Woodford Humane Society

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JUNE 86

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30					

- SUN 1 GSD POTLUCK, 1:30pm, at Jeff I.'s, for more information call (606) 299-0352; GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 4:00pm, GSD office, 431 S. Broadway, Suite 322; PRIDE WEEK ASSOCIATION MEETING, 7:00pm, GSD Office, 431 S. Broadway, Suite 322, volunteers needed!!
- MON 2 GSD FORUM, 8:00pm - Board Report, Community Input, and Elections, 8:30pm - Program, "Why do we have Gay Pride?" Free food and drink. GSD office, 431 S. Broadway, Suite 322.
- WED 4 DIGNITY BOARD MEETING, 6:30pm, and LITURGY, 7:30pm, Newman Center; GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 8:00pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120; GAYLINE (231-0335), 8:00pm - 11:00pm
- THU 5 GAYLINE, (231-0335), 8:00pm - 11:00pm.
- FRI 6 GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 8:00pm, Comprehensive Care Center; GAYLINE (231-0335), 8:00pm - 11:00pm.
- SUN 8 PRIDE SERVICE AND PICNIC, Service at 10:45am "Celebration of Unsung Heros in Lesbian and Gay History", Picnic at 12:30pm, all at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill; GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 4:00pm, GSD office, 431 S. Broadway, Suite 322.
- MON 9 GAY AND LESBIAN SURVIVAL KIT, an evening of information for everyone, at 7:00pm - Alcoholism, at 8:00pm - Home Financing, problems and how to overcome them, at 8:30pm - Sodomy Laws, at 9:00pm - Insurance, at 9:30pm - Safe Sex, all at Arts Place.
- TUE 10 PRIDE SPEAKER, "What a Lesbian and Gay Community should be doing and how to do it", with guest speaker Sue Lovell, president of Houston's Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, 7:00pm, Arts Place.
- WED 11 PRIDE WEEK BAR NIGHT, look for specials; GAYLINE (231-0335), 8:00pm - 11:00pm; GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 8:00pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120.
- THU 12 ART EXHIBIT AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, 7:00pm, art, music, poetry, at Arts Place; GAYLINE (231-0335), 8:00pm - 11:00pm.
- FRI 13 LA CAGE AUX FOLLES III, 9:30pm, Kentucky Theatre; GAYLINE (231-0335), 8:00pm - 11:00pm; GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 8:00pm, Comprehensive Care Center; INTERWEAVE POTLUCK, 6:30pm, call Keith K. for more information at 273-8056.

EVENTS CALENDER

- SAT 14 JETER'S FUN ON THE FARM, 12:00pm - 10:00pm, fun and games, picnic (bring a picnic lunch), beverages provided and FREE beer.
- SUN 15 LESBIAN POTLUCK BRUNCH, 2:00pm, contact Teri at 277-2877; SPEAKERS' BUREAU MEETING, 5:30pm, GSD office; GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 4:00pm, GSD office; FATHER'S DAY!!
- MON 16 INTERWEAVE MEETING, 7:30pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, call Keith K at 273-8056.
- WED 18 GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 8:00pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120; GAYLINE (231-0335), 8:00pm - 11:00pm; HAPPY BIRTHDAY A.B.!!
- FRI 20 GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 8:00pm Comprehensive Care Center.
- SAT 21 First day of Summer!!
- SUN 22 GAY PARENTING SUPPORT GROUP BRUNCH, 10:30am, at Bruce's, call 268-3935; GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 4:00pm, GSD office.
- TUE 24 DIGNITY PROGRAM MEETING AND POTLUCK, 7:30pm, at Jim and John's, call 299-0352 or 254-9812; GAYLINE (231-0335), 8:00pm - 11:00pm.
- WED 25 GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 8:00pm, St. Joseph Office Park, Room 120; GAYLINE (231-0335), 8:00pm - 11:00pm
- THU 26 GAYLINE, (231-0335), 8:00pm - 11:00pm.
- FRI 27 VOLLEYBALL/POTLUCK, 6:30pm, Jacobson Park, Shelter #5; GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 8:00pm, Comprehensive Care Center; GAYLINE (231-0335), 8:00pm - 11:00pm.
- SUN 29 GAY AND LESBIAN AA, 4:00pm, GSD office.
- MON 30 GSD BOARD MEETING, 7:00pm, GSD office.

MAJOR UPCOMING GSD EVENTS

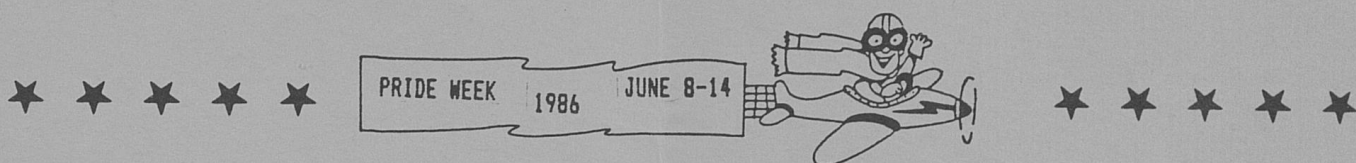
- JUNE GSD ELECTIONS
JUNE 2
- PRIDE WEEK
JUNE 8 - 14

PRIDE WEEK 1986
JUNE 8 - 14

PRIDE WEEK 1986

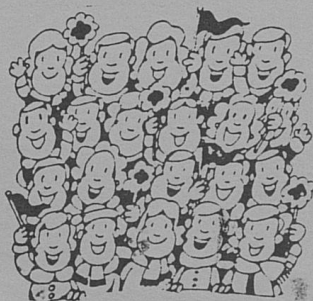
JUNE 8-14

OUR COMMUNITY'S CULTURAL
CELEBRATION!



- SUN 8 PRIDE SERVICE AND PICNIC
- MON 9 GAY AND LESBIAN SURVIVAL KIT
- TUE 10 PRIDE SPEAKER, SOE LOVELL
- WED 11 BAR NIGHT
- THU 12 ART EXHIBIT AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT
- FRI 13 LA CAGE A FOLLES III, KENTUCKY THEATRE
- SAT 14 JETER'S FUN ON THE FARM

* SEE CALENDAR FOR DETAILS *



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